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CS 635 Medical Dilemmas and the Church

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MEDICAL DILEMMAS AND THE CHURCH

(A COURSE IN BIOETHICS)

CS 635

Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 2:20

James R. Thobaben, Ph.D., M.P.H.

ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Office Hours: M 2:30 - 3:30, T 1:30 - 3:30, W 2:30 - 3:30 & by appointment

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PURPOSE:

To prepare students for ministry by training them to analyze and address issues in medical ethics and health care from a Christian perspective. To develop ministers who are responsive to the needs, contexts, and insights of parishioners and members of the larger community who are patients, family members of patients, or practitioners. To enable ministers to equip their congregations for understanding their moral responsibility in decisions about the delivery and receiving of health care and the impact of social decisions in health care on the broader community.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a theological basis for understanding and interpreting health issues.
- To introduce various historical and contemporary Christian interpretations of medical ethics issues.
- To teach the vocabulary of ethical analysis, specifically medical ethics.
- To introduce approaches to social analysis for use in understanding health care.
- To consider how responses to medical ethics problems shape society.
- To consider how responses to medical ethics problems impact congregational life and pastoral care.

TEXTS:

Beauchamp & Walters, Contemporary Issues in Bioethics

Other material to be distributed or on reserve.

EXPECTATIONS:

Written Work: The theme papers will 5 – 7 pages in length on the three themes listed below with one being open to student choice.

#1 (Due 3/15) **Is health care a right? Explain your position. Include consideration of ethical theory and alternative positions.**

#2 (Due 4/12) **Describe a Christian position (consistent with Wesleyan evangelicalism) on the suicide of the critically ill. Assume that the position you present will serve as the basis for a sermon or Sunday School class following the death of a parishioner's family member who commits suicide while chronically, but not near-term terminally, ill. Do not focus on counseling issues, but on moral reasoning.**

#3 (Due 4/26) **Open topic, but must focus on ethics, not counseling or pastoral care.**

All of the reading assigned for a week reading is to be completed by Monday. Some discussions may "spill over" to the next Monday. The assigned reading is still to be completed on time. Students will be asked at the end of the semester if all reading has been completed on time.

Students with experience in healthcare may opt for a single 17- 18 page paper on a bioethics topic. This option must be approved by and the topic selected in conversation with the professor. Paper is due 4/26.

All written work must be typed with 12 point type, one inch margins on all four sides, and true double spacing. Do not include substantial quotes from Scripture; use citations. All references must be noted properly; include page numbers. Follow page limit requirements. Required length of paper does not include reference or title pages. Papers are due at the beginning of class. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. All written work must use inclusive language when reference is made to human beings (male and female). This provides for both greater inclusion and greater precision. For more information on this topic see 'Suggestions for Using Inclusive Language', available in the Dean of Student's Office.

Papers are graded anonymously. Each paper should include a title page with the student's name and SPO number. All subsequent pages should include only the SPO number, written in the top right corner.

Final Examination: A one-hour, in-class final. Part of the exam will be an objective examination over concepts in medical ethics and part will be a response to a case study. The exam will be given during finals week at 1:00 pm on Wednesday or other time designated by the Registrar. As with the papers, the exam will be graded anonymously.

Participation: Students are required to complete all assigned readings. Acknowledgement of completion will be sought the last day of class. Failure to complete readings on time may result in a lowering of the final grade, as will poor attendance for class. Attendance will be taken. The deduction for low participation and/or late or incomplete reading of assigned material will be up to 10% against the final grade (a full letter grade reduction).

FINAL GRADE:

Examination	25%
Theme Papers	25% each OR 75% for term paper
Class Participation	Deduction if lacking
Reading	Deduction if lacking

Grade Range: Work for CS 635 will be evaluated at a graduate/professional school level.

<i>A</i>	=	<i>Unusually high quality, exceptional work</i>
<i>A-</i>	=	<i>Far above average, fine work</i>
<i>B+</i>	=	<i>Above average for graduate work</i>
<i>B</i>	=	<i>Very good, but average for graduate work</i>
<i>B-</i>	=	<i>Slightly below average for graduate work</i>
<i>C+</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with noticeable inadequacies for graduate work</i>
<i>C</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with gaps for graduate work</i>
<i>C-</i>	=	<i>Meets requirements, but with significant gaps for graduate work</i>
<i>D+</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, acceptable</i>
<i>D</i>	=	<i>Minimal work, barely acceptable</i>
<i>D-</i>	=	<i>Acceptable, but only with great reservation</i>
<i>F</i>	=	<i>Failure; unacceptable work</i>

COURSE SCHEDULE

- 2/10 **BASIC CONCEPTS IN ETHICS**
 B & W 1-38
 Orr, R "Christian and Secular Decision-Making in Clinical Ethics"
 Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
 (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 138-152
 Ramsey, P The Patient as Person xi - xviii
 Fletcher Jos Situation Ethics 17 - 39
 Hauerwas, S "Must a Patient be a Person....?" Connecticut Medicine in Lammers &
 Verhey On Moral Medicine (2nd ed) 387 - 390
- 2/15 **BASIC CONCEPTS OF HEALTH**
 B & W 39-68; 85-102; 109-122
 WHO Definition of Health
 Callahan, D "The Who Definition of 'Health'" Hastings Center Studies 1(3) in Lammers
 & Verhey On Moral Medicine (2nd ed) 387 - 390
 Szasz, TS "The Myth of Mental Illness" Ideology and Insanity 12-24
 Szasz, TS "Illness & Indignity" The Theology of Medicine 18 - 23
- 2/22 **HEALING, HEALTH, AND HOPE: Religion, Health, and Caregiving**
 Mitchell, CB "Bioethics and the Church" Bioethics and the Future of Medicine:
 A Christian Appraisal (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 124 - 137
 Hollinger, DP "Doing Bioethics: Christian Ethics, Pastoral Care, & Pubic Policy"
 Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
 (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 290-301
 Brand, P & Yancey, P Pain: The Gift Nobody Wants 3 - 7, 288 - 306
 Lewis, CS The Problem of Pain 89 - 117
 Engelhardt, HT Bioethics and Secular Humanism: The Search for Common Morality
 102 - 140
- 3/1 **DECISIONS AND DESPAIR: Competence & Euthanasia**
 B & W 351-512
 Rutecki, G "Until Death Shall Be No More: Christian Care for the Dying"
 Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
 (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 279-289
 Aries, P The Hour of Our Death 602 - 614
 Muggeridge, M "The Humane Holocaust" in Reagan, R Abortion & the Conscience
 of the Nation 75 - 95
 Hoffman, PB Values in Conflict: Resolving Ethical Issues in Health Care (2nd ed) 5 - 27
 Jaggard, P "Advance Directives: The Case for Greater Dialogue"
 Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
 (ed. Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 250-262
 Charles, JD "The 'Right to Die' in Light of Contemporary Rights Rhetoric"
 Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
 (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 263-278
 Agich, GJ Autonomy and Long-Term Care 3 - 12, 161 - 163
 Thobaben, JR "A United Methodist Approach to End-of-Life..." Christian
 Bioethics (3)3:222-248
- 3/8 **DECISIONS AND DESPAIR (cont.)**
 NO ADDITIONAL READINGS
- 3/15 **THE DISTRIBUTION OF DESIRED THINGS: Managed Care & 'Right' to Care**
 B & W 69-85; 675-752
 Kilner, J "Rationing and Health Care Reform" Bioethics and the Future of Medicine:
 A Christian Appraisal (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 290-301
 Ashley, BM & O'Rourke, KD Health Care Ethics (4th ed) 107 - 123
 Thobaben, JR "The Impact of Managed Care..."
 " Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation (12)1:10-20

THEME PAPER #1 DUE IN CLASS 3/15

- 3/22 **MODELS OF CAREGIVING**
 Required attendance at Good Samaritan Foundation Bioethics Conference
 8:00 - 4:30 Monday 3/22 @ Good Samaritan in Lexington (no Wednesday class)

6-7 page paper on caregiving, due 3/29, may be substituted for attendance with permission of professor.
B & W 123-162
May, W "A Covenantal View of Professional Character and Virtue"
Testing the Medical Covenant 51 - 83

- 3/29 ***OTHERNESS?: Brain Injuries, Birth Defects, and Other Awkward Circumstances***
B & W 102-109, 210-216, 593-651
Wernow, JR "Saying the Unsaid: Quality of Life Criteria in a Sanctity of Life Position"
" Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal 92-111
(ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 290-301
Williams, SN "Bioethics in the Shadow of Nietzsche" Bioethics and the Future of
Medicine: A Christian Appraisal (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 112-123
Webb-Mitchell, B Unexpected Guests at God's Banquet 50 - 75
Barton, Len "Disability & the Necessity for a Socio-Political Perspective"

4/5 ***READING WEEK***

- 4/12 ***GIVING AND GETTING: The Donation of Human Substances & Research***
B & W 163 - 173
Kuhse & Singer (ed), A Companion to Bioethics: all articles 369-424
Titmuss, RM The Gift Relationship 11 - 14, 224 - 236

THEME PAPER #2 DUE IN CLASS 4/12

- 4/19 ***VICARIOUS PARENTHOOD?: Alternatives in Reproduction***
B & W 271-343
Beckwith, F "From Personhood to Bodily Autonomy: The Shifting Legal Focus in
the Abortion debate" Bioethics and the Future of Medicine:
A Christian Appraisal (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 187-198
O'Mathuna, DP "The Bible & Abortion: What of the 'Image of God'"
Bioethics and the Future of Medicine: A Christian Appraisal
(ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 199-211
Pohl, CD "Abortion: Responsibility & Moral Betrayal" Bioethics and the Future of
Medicine: A Christian Appraisal (ed Kilner, Cameron, Schiedermayer) 212-223
"Durham Declaration"
Harrison, BW Our Right to Choose 32 - 56

- 4/26 ***VICARIOUS PARENTHOOD? (cont.)***
B & W 187-209; 216-270; 651-674
Ramsey, P Fabricated Man 104 - 112
Steinbock, B "The McCaughey Septuplets: Medical Miracle or Gambling with Fertility
Drugs" in Arras & Steinbock (ed) Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine (5th ed)
375 - 377
Vatican, "Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of
Procreation" in Arras & Steinbock (ed) Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine
(5th ed) 425 - 434
Warren, MA "IVF and Women's Interests: An Analysis of Feminist Concerns" in Arras
& Steinbock (ed) Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine (5th ed) 434 - 444

THEME PAPER #3 OR TERM PAPER DUE IN CLASS 4/26

- 5/3 ***PUBLIC HEALTH***
B & W 174-186; 343-349; 513-592

- 5/10 ***FINAL THOUGHTS AND NEW CONSIDERATIONS***

FINAL EXAMINATION: Finals Week as assigned by Registrar